

# THE DESOTO COUNTY NEWS.

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## NEW RAILROAD TO BOCA GRANDE

Line Will Run from Tampa to Boca Grande, via Arcadia. Deep Water Wanted—Judge Wall Talks of the Matter. Big Thing for This Section. Road Will Also Take in the Level Section.

The following article from the Tampa Times will be read by the people of this county with a good deal of interest. The present road now in operation by the Peace River Phosphate Mining Company, which passes through Arcadia, will be used by the new company:

"Having learned that Attorney John P. Wall had returned this morning from a trip north, and having heard rumors that his trip was on behalf of the Alafia, Manatee and Gulf Coast Railway Company, the Times sent a representative around to see Mr. Wall at his office, and he was asked if he was yet in a position to make any announcement as to the financial backing his company had and as to their present and future plans. In reply Mr. Wall stated that he was very glad that the ban of secrecy had been raised and that he was now in a position to take the public into his confidence, and there upon he made a statement in substance as follows:

"The value of the charter of the Alafia, Manatee and Gulf Coast Railway company is because of an act of congress, which was passed in 1902, granting to this company a right of way with terminal facilities upon the lighthouse and military reservation Gasparilla island, at Charlotte Harbor, and as any one can readily see by the examination of a chart, this grant controls the deep water proposition at that point. Some time the latter part of last April I was instructed to look into the charter of the Alafia, Manatee and Gulf Coast Railway company and to ascertain if the same could be secured, and I might say that from that time until the 17th day of last month negotiations were being carried on by me for the purpose of securing this charter, but on account of the fact that local parties who controlled the charter had already tied themselves up with another contract, we were delayed in securing the charter until the 17th of last month, when the transaction was closed in New York city. Shortly after the control of this charter had been thus secured a reorganization of the company was effected and James M. Gifford, of New York city, was elected president of the company and a board of directors was elected as follows:

"James M. Gifford, of the law firm of Gifford, Hobbs, Haskell & Beard; Peter B. Bradley, president of the Peace River Phosphate Mining company; John F. Gibbons, president of the American Agricultural Chemical company; Albert S. Bradley, president of the Columbia Trust company; John P. Wall, lawyer, Tampa.

"In the meantime we secured

### Warns Southern Growers.

W. S. Wilbourne, writing from Willes, Texas, gives a note of warning to southern truckers which it would be well for them to heed. He writes to the New York Packer, as follows:

"The booming prices for potatoes and cabbage in the north is infusing new life into the southern trucker, after his spell of the 'blues' from last season's Waterloo.

"But just here I want to sound a note of warning to the grower. Be careful lest you depend too much upon the other fellow not growing, and in order to profit thereby, each of you should not overplant the market, and have a repetition of last season. However, the indications just now is for a general reduction in most lines of truck. But the southern trucker is apt to become enthused on short notice, and when so infected, goes it blind to a finish.

"At this place there will be a small reduction in the acreage of potatoes. Cabbage about the same as last season. While tomatoes will be, maybe double the acreage of last season, with some beans, peas and cukes for express shipment. We are sowing our cabbage seed in cold frames this week. Fall potatoes are looking fine, and we have had no frost up to date.

control of all the lands suitable for railroad purposes upon Gasparilla island which were owned by private parties, and at once put our corps of engineers in the field and commenced to clear, grade and grub upon the island.

"Arrangements have been made to build northward and connect up and take over the thirty miles of railroad which is now being operated by the Peace River Phosphate Mining company as a private road, and while this road thus connected up will be operated as a branch road, the main line will be built through the Pine Level section on to Tampa, and thus open up an entirely new section of South Florida. Nor is it the intention of my clients to stop at Tampa, but they will either seek an outlet up the west coast to the north or will build over toward the St. Johns river and connect up there with the East Coast line. Outside of myself all the gentlemen above named and their associates who are connected with this enterprise are men of influence and standing in the financial world, and the building of this road does not depend upon any sale of bonds or anything of that kind, for fortunately the gentlemen above named, and their associates, are amply able to carry out this enterprise without going into the money markets.

"I should add that L. M. Fouts, who is a practical railroad man and who has had large experience in railroad building, has been appointed general manager of the Alafia, Manatee and Gulf Coast Railway company and will of course go on the board of directors.

"While away I met quite a number of prominent people, and they all seemed interested in Florida and its development, and many questions were asked me concerning the long strides Tampa is making toward being one of the most important points on the gulf coast."

## OUR NEW FACTORY WILL SOON BE ESTABLISHED

### ARTIFICIAL STONE IS TO BE MADE.

Some Interesting Points From Factory in Savannah—Interest Here is Rising—Strong Backing Behind the Enterprise—Will Mean Much for Arcadia.

In last week's issue we made mention of the organization of a company, composed of the citizens of Arcadia, for the purpose of manufacturing artificial stone with which to rebuild the burned district. There are in every community some who are skeptical and who hesitate to take hold of a new thing until "the other fellow" has given it a trial and proven it a success. For the benefit of such, we take pleasure in reproducing an article from the Savannah Morning News showing what the business men of that hustling, progressive city think of artificial stone as a building material. If this stone can be used in Savannah to an advantage as compared to brick, with brick at \$4 to \$5 per 1,000, how much more advantageously could it be used here with brick at \$10 per 1,000. From Savannah Morning News.

Mr. Kirk Brown, who has been in Savannah for several weeks instructing workmen at the plant of the Georgia Building Material Company in the methods of making artificial stone, left for his home in Dayton, O., last night.

The plant near the Seaboard team tracks will be in full operation by Jan. 1. It might be stated that the plant is in full operation now, which is true in all particulars except that the company will not be manufacturing material for order until the new year. It is running at a capacity of 600 blocks a day, equal to a product of 21,000 brick. Thus one block of artificial stone is equal to thirty-five bricks.

Beyond the fact that the Georgia Building Material Company was organized and would establish a plant in Savannah, very little has been said of the concern. The completion of the plant, however, and the beginning of operations with the assurance that it will revolutionize old methods of building, makes the matter one of considerable importance.

### BUILDING MATERIAL OF FUTURE.

A number of claims are made for the artificial stone. It is said to be cheaper than brick and more durable than stone. Mr. A. S. Guckenheimer, who is president of the company, says the opportunity for the success of the enterprise lay in several things readily appreciated by experienced builders. Among these were mentioned the scarcity of brick and the high price of lumber.

It is said to be very difficult to get brick in large shipments without considerable delay. This is more noticeable each year, as the clay banks are becoming exhausted. The making of artificial stone blocks to order will obviate this difficulty. The

preliminary work which is being done at the plant is a trying-out of the moulds for 400 and odd styles which will be manufactured.

The artificial stone is made of cement, sand and water, scientifically mixed. Within forty-eight hours after the blocks are moulded they are hard enough to be used, but they are subjected to a curing process which increases their durability. In explaining the process, Mr. Guckenheimer said that the longer the blocks stand the harder they become and they are better a hundred years old than at twenty.

In the manufacture of the blocks Savannah river sand is used. Mr. Guckenheimer says the supply is practically inexhaustible and there is enough within easy reach to supply all of Savannah's building for twenty years to come. The company has assurance from a number of parties that the materials of the plant will be used in several large buildings to be erected the coming year.

SOME OF THE ADVANTAGES. Every block is made hollow, which gives greater durability and the power of resisting attacks of moisture and heat, at the same time furnishing ducts through which water pipes and electric wires may be run without disfiguring the building. It is claimed that a building of the stone is fireproof, that it is cheaper than either brick or lumber and more durable. The material is used over the North and West generally. The introduction of it into the South has been of only recent date.

"At the present price of lumber," said Mr. Guckenheimer, "the artificial stone is much cheaper. There is no cost of painting and lathing. It is cheaper to handle than brick, for the reason that one block is the equivalent of thirty-five bricks. The first cost is not greater than ordinary brick and not as much as face brick. A 9-inch wall of the artificial stone is stronger by test than a twelve inch wall of brick. In the actual building, corner and bay window pieces are made to order and are laid without extra cost or trouble."

Mr. Guckenheimer said that a potent argument in favor of the artificial stone lay in its utility for residence, factory, and all other classes of building. In this connection he evinced his confidence in the growth of the city by saying that he expected the factory to be kept busy in furnishing material for Savannah building.

A peculiar advantage will be the ability to furnish the blocks directly to order, and in such time that it will be possible for a contractor to place his order after decision has been reached as to the style and structure of the building for exactly what is needed, and it will be furnished by the time the builders are ready for it.

Mr. Brown is an expert manufacturer of artificial stone, and he was employed to set up the machinery and instruct the workmen as to its management and manufacture. An immense mixture plant has been installed, and is at work.

Mr. Guckenheimer is enthusiastic over the prospect and says the possibilities of the product are practically unlimited. It can be made imitation of any kind of building stone and in any color.

### DEATH OF MRS. E. C. LONG

One of the Best Known Women in Florida—Was the First White Child Born in Tallahassee.

Tallahassee, Dec. 17.—Mrs. Ellen Call Long died here to-day, in the 80th year of her age, of paralysis. She was a daughter of former Governor Richard Keith Call and was the first white child born in Tallahassee.

Mrs. Long was a woman of culture and had for long years been prominent in the social and intellectual life of the state. She was personally acquainted with every governor of Florida from Jackson to Broward.

She was an authoress of distinction, Florida Breezes being her best known work, and leaves valuable manuscript of historical importance to Florida, which will undoubtedly be in demand.

A son, Richard C. Long, and a daughter, Mrs. E. K. Hollinger, mourn the death of their good mother. The funeral will take place here Monday afternoon.

Mrs. Long spent years of her long and useful life in an effort to introduce silk culture as one of the profitable industries of Florida. She published a book on the subject, which is accepted authority to all who have ever engaged in the business in this state.

### What They Say.

The American and the Englishman say: How do you do?

The German: How do you find yourself?

The Frenchman: How do you carry yourself?

The Italian: How do you stand?

The Spaniard: Co with God, senior.

The Russian: How do you live on?

The Hollander: Have you had a good dinner?

The Chinese: Have you eaten your rice?

The Egyptian: How do you perspire?

The Mohammedan: Peace be with you.

The Persian: May thy shadow never grow less!

The Burmese rub their noses against each other's cheek, exclaiming: Give me a smell.

Arabs of eminence kiss each other's cheeks and say: God grant thee his favor and give health to thy family.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

### Notice.

I will reply to the sermon preached by the Baptist evangelist, Mr. H. Boyce Taylor, last Sunday evening at the Baptist church in Arcadia. The purpose is not so much to show that the Baptists are an unscriptural denomination as to plead for more toleration on the part of Christians in general. I propose to show, in a loving spirit, that the scriptures as I see them are for a better fellowship among God's people. At my personal request, the Methodist pastor, J. P. DePass, has kindly granted the use of their building, where these lectures will be held on Tuesday evening, December 26, at 7:15 o'clock. A second meeting may be held Friday evening also. All are urgently requested to be present.

F. H. JEANNIN.

## TERROR REIGNS IN RUSSIA

### RAILROADS ARE ALL TIED UP

Big Strike Has Been Ordered. Pandemonium Reigns—Government Is in Seemingly Helpless Condition—The Condition of the Empire Is Fearful and the Authorities Have No Control Over the Infuriated Mob—Order for Strike Went in On 20th.

From Metropolis, Jacksonville.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 20.—On account of some confusion the general strike proclaimed at Moscow at noon today instead of tomorrow was inaugurated with a complete suspension of the street railroad service. The situation in the Baltic provinces is growing steadily worse, and in the Caucasus a renewal of the outbreak of the Tartars and Armenians has produced another reign of terror. At Sebastopol new mutinies have occurred and 1,600 soldiers have been disarmed and are under guard. Troops at Kharkoff have revolted and the inhabitants are still fleeing from the city. The weather is very cold. Deep snow is in the country as far south as Kieff. It is believed a few days' hunger and starvation will easily drive the people to desperation and provoke uprisings and attacks on the strikers and perhaps general pillage.

### TIE-UP COMPLETE.

In government circles confidence is expressed that the proletariat organizations cannot effect a complete tie-up and the strike must be of short duration. Strike leaders declare the government is again hopelessly ignorant of the struggle confronting it. From the nature of appeals of leaders to the troops it is evident they expect to precipitate a crisis in the army. It has been decided that the strike beginning to-morrow shall extend to everything in the empire, railroad manufactures, wholesale and retail stores and the government works, except the waterworks. Bakeries, the cities will not be closed so long as they do not raise the prices. The helplessness of the government demonstrated by the inability of the interior minister, Durnovo, last night to get through instructions to arrest members of the Workmen's Council of Moscow. The government is unable to forward instructions General Linevitch, commander of Manchurian army.

### He Had Hopes.

Wearman—Is this the official Quigley's quick cure? Patent Medicine Man—Yes. "Gimme six bottles for wife." "Tried all other remedies out success, eh?" "No; she ain't ill at all, saw in your advertisement a woman wrote after taking bottles 'I am a different woman and I have hopes.'"

# The Arcadia Mercantile Company

## NOT HURT BY THE FIRE

We wish to say to our friends and customers, that our stock of merchandise was practically unhurt during the recent fire that visited our city, and that we now, as before, carry one of the largest, the best and most complete stocks in South Florida. During the fire we trusted the brick buildings which we occupied, instead of moving out, and we are glad to say that the buildings stood the test, and we are here with stock of goods unhurt by moving and which is constantly being replenished by the best the market can afford.

When our November business, a year like this, proves to be the largest we have ever had, it causes thanks to our customers and friends for their liberal support, and it proves to the public that the proper place for Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes, Trunks, Hardware, Staple and Groceries, Hay and Grain, is at

# The Arcadia Mercantile Company, McR